Senate Bill 165
By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Beach of the 21st, Miller of the 49th, Ginn of the 47th and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 40-2-151 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the annual license fees for operation of vehicles, so as to reduce the registration fee charged to low-speed alternative fueled vehicles; to amend Chapter 8 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to equipment and inspection of motor vehicles, so as to exempt certain autonomous vehicles from certain equipment standards; to require the display of a reflective emblem or the use of strobe light while operating a slow-moving or low-speed vehicle; to provide for issuance of a permit relating to operation of an amber strobe light upon a low-speed vehicle; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.
Code Section 40-2-151 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the annual license fees for operation of vehicles, is amended by revising subparagraph (a)(19)(A) as follows:
"(19)(A)(i) Upon registration of an alternative fueled vehicle not operated for commercial purposes ........................................... 200.00
(ii) Upon registration of an alternative fueled vehicle operated for commercial purposes ........................................... 300.00
(iii) Upon registration of an alternative fueled vehicle that is a low-speed vehicle .................................................... 100.00"

SECTION 2.
Chapter 8 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to equipment and inspection of motor vehicles, is amended by revising Code Section 40-8-1, relating to application of article, by revising subsection (b) as follows:
"(b) Unless otherwise required by federal law, rule, or regulation, a fully autonomous vehicle that is designed to be operated exclusively by the automated driving system for all trips shall not be subject to any provisions of this article that relate to or support motor vehicle operation by a human driver and are not relevant to the operation of an automated driving system.
(e) Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit the use of additional parts and accessories on any vehicle, which use is not inconsistent with the provisions of this article."

SECTION 3.
Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-8-4, relating to emblem to be displayed on certain slow-moving vehicles or equipment operating on public roads, as follows:
"40-8-4.
(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate upon the public roads of this state any slow-moving vehicle or equipment, any farm trailer or semitrailer which is used for agricultural purposes and which would otherwise be exempt from this article as an implement of husbandry under Code Section 40-8-1, any animal drawn vehicle, or any
machinery designed for use and generally operated at speeds less than 25 miles per hour, including all road construction or maintenance equipment and machinery except when engaged in actual construction or maintenance procedures and all other construction equipment and machinery, unless there is displayed on the rear thereof an emblem which shall comply with subsection (b) of this Code section or an amber strobe light operated in compliance with Code Section 40-8-35. It shall also be unlawful to operate upon the public roads of this state without such an emblem any three-wheeled motorcycle used only for agricultural purposes unless such three-wheeled motorcycle is licensed as required by Chapter 2 of this title and is in compliance with all other requirements of this chapter.

(b) The emblem required by subsection (a) of this Code section shall conform with those standards and specifications adopted for slow-moving vehicles by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in December, 1966, and contained within such society's standard ASAE S276.1, or shall be an emblem of the same shape and size painted on such vehicle in a bright and conspicuous retroreflective red orange paint. Such emblem shall be mounted on the rear of such vehicles, in the approximate horizontal geometric center of the vehicle, at a height of three to five feet above the roadway, and shall be maintained at all times in a clean and reflective condition.

(c) Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(d) Nothing in this Code section shall apply to any self-propelled, two-wheeled vehicle.

SECTION 4.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-8-35, relating to operating low-speed vehicles on highway requires amber strobe light, as follows:

"40-8-35.

(a) Any low-speed vehicle operated on the highways of this state without a properly affixed emblem conforming to the requirements of Code Section 40-8-4 shall display an amber strobe light so as to warn approaching travelers to decrease their speed because of
the danger of colliding with such vehicle. Such amber strobe light shall be mounted in a
manner so as to be visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet
from the front and rear of such vehicle.

(b) Any permit required for compliance with this Code section shall be issued by a county
tag agent upon registration of such vehicle.”

SECTION 5.

This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2021, and Section 1 of this Act shall be applicable
to vehicle registrations occurring on or after July 1, 2021.

SECTION 6.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.